

There is a continuing erosion of first amendment rights in this country when Congress bows to media owners and lobbyists by putting America's airwaves up for sale and then allows one point of view to be heard. Rupert Murdoch comes to mind.

"Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation operates in nine different media on six continents. In 1995 its revenues were distributed between filmed entertainment (26 percent), newspapers (24 percent), television (21 percent), magazines (14 percent) and book publishing (12 percent). Its holdings include the US Fox broadcasting network; twenty-two television stations (the largest US station group); a 50 percent interest in several US and global cable networks, including fx, fxM and Fox Sports Tel; a 50 percent stake in Fox Kids Worldwide, the owner of cable Family Channel; ownership or major interests in satellite services; Twentieth Century Fox; some 130 newspapers (including The Times of London and the New York Post); twenty-five magazines, including TV Guide; book publishing interests, including HarperCollins; and the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team."

How much more will you allow this man to control? The Telecommunications act that Congress passed was a very bad piece of legislation and this change continues the trend. Why is it corporate interests always outweigh what is good for American Citizens?

Take the case of Clear Channel.

"The company owns nearly 1,200 radio stations and effectively controls the rock radio market. It also owns SFX Entertainment, the nation's dominant concert-venue owner and touring promoter." How big is Clear Channel? The company owns stations in 247 of the nation's 250 largest radio markets. Clear Channel in particular dominates the Top 40 format (KIIS-FM in Los Angeles, WHTZ and WKTU in New York, KHKS in Dallas, WXKS in Boston, WHYI in Miami, etc.) and controls 60 percent of rock-radio listening."

With what is coming, maybe one of these major players will own it all.

When I go out to eat, I have the choice in my community of Italian, Japanese, Vegetarian, Mexican, and Persian, Afghani, Thai and about a dozen other possibilities. When I turn on the Radio it looks more and more like I will eventually have but one choice for music and for opinions expressed on the airwaves.